

FITCHBURG STATE COLLEGE

Clarifying Purposes of Technology that Support Teaching

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Hammond Building Alumni Rooms

1. Ed Tech Visions 9:00 – 9:45

In this session, Jamie will suggest fruitful ways of tying information technologies to the learning of students rather than allowing these tools to sidetrack, seduce or distract them. He shows how questioning can be combined with powerful searching so that students are challenged at a rigorous level. He argues that information literacies are central to clarifying purpose. He illustrates this approach with specific examples.

2. Enriching and Sharpening the Questioning Skills of Students 10:00 – 10:45

Jamie argues that student thinking is strengthened when they can orchestrate more than a dozen different types of questions as they conduct an inquiry. He introduces his "Questioning Toolkit" and shows how it can support the search for meaning and understanding. He also suggests that questioning is more than a matter of skill, showing how attitude is an essential aspect of what he calls "the Serial Questioner."

3. Effective Ed Tech Pedagogy - Moves, Tactics, Strategies and Tricks That Work 11:00 – 11:45

New technologies require thoughtful shifts in classroom practices by instructors so that students are required to do more of the thinking and exploration than they may have done in the past. At the same time, many classical approaches are worthy of continuance, so the savvy teacher learns to blend old with new, keeping an eye on student learning as the prime goal. This sometimes means saying "no" to powerpointlessness and frivolous uses of new technologies.

4. Ed Tech Visions 12:15 – 1:00

Repeat of Session 1 above.

5. Nurturing and Provoking Originality and Synthesis 1:15 – 2:00

Students should be asked to make up their own minds and contribute insight whenever they conducting research, wrestling with problems or inventing solutions. Originality is within reach if we equip all students with a toolkit of synthesis skills as outlined by Jamie in this session, but assignments must also state clearly that mere cut-and-paste thinking is unacceptable.

6. Embracing Complexity and Requiring Deep Thought 2:15 – 3:00

In a society that often seems to thirst for simple solutions to complex problems and issues, it is essential, Jamie maintains, that we develop an appetite in students for deeper meaning, showing them how to ponder, wonder, consider, wander and comprehend.